

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-14, and 16-20 remain in this application. Claims 4, 9, and 15 are now canceled, and new claim 21 is added. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The claim amendments above are made following consideration of the comments provided by the Examiner in sections 1 and 4 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims in this application now comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Independent claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by newly applied Japanese patent document 2001-346351 to Matsuura. Reconsideration is requested.

The following discussion mentions reference characters appearing in the drawings to facilitate that discussion only. It is not intended in any way to limit the claims of the application to particular structure shown or described by the present application by this discussion.

One characteristic of the present invention is that a distance (L1) between an end of a motor guide (1d) opposite to a direction of motor insertion and a contact starting position (P), at which projections (7c) come into contact with an inner surface of a motor casing (1b) by being pressed against that inner surface, is larger than a distance (L2) between an end face of a motor mounting flange (72) on a side facing the direction of motor insertion when the projections (7c) are in the contact starting position (P). Accordingly, the flange (72) can be guided by the motor guide (1d) before the projections (7c) reach the contact starting position at the time of motor full insertion. As a result of this arrangement,

when the motor is inserted into the motor casing, a portion of the motor body on an output shaft side is self-centered, without inclining in the radial direction of the motor casing, and the projections (7c) can subsequently reach the contact starting position (P), with an appropriate attitude, at the time of full motor insertion. These features are reflected in claim 1 as it appears above. As a result of the construction now defined by claim 1, a first motor insertion stage is executed without contact between an outer surface of the motor body, including projections, and an inner surface of the motor casing. As a result, the first stage of motor insertion can be easily and smoothly executed. Subsequently, a second stage, full motor insertion, executed with the projections (7c) pressed against the inner surface of the motor case and with contact between the projections (7c) and the inner surfaces of the motor casing, can be also easily and smoothly accomplished, because the distance of the second stage motor insertion after the first stage motor insertion can be greatly reduced.

Newly applied U.S. Patent 6,860,466 to Sakurai et al. is relied on as a secondary reference together with the Matsuura document in section 8 on page 4 of the Office Action. The Sakurai et al. patent disclosure, however, fails to suggest modifying the actuator forming the subject matter of the Matsuura document so as to meet the limitations discussed above, however, and claim 1 above should now be patentable.

New independent claim 21 is added to define the invention in terms that differ from those of claim 1. Claim 21, however, does included limitations directed to the particular first and second motor casing inner diameters that are essentially the same as those used in claim 1. As noted in the discussion of claim

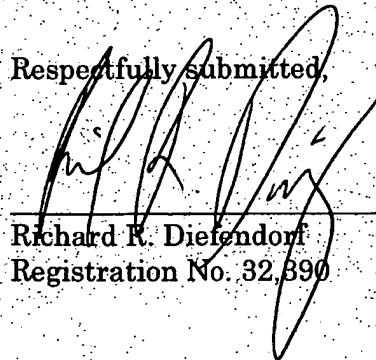
1, the Matsuura and Sakurai et al. disclosures do not suggest an actuator meeting such limitations, and it is respectfully submitted that the prior art documents relied on by the Examiner fail to suggest a throttle device as claim 21 requires. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claim 21 above is patentable. Claims 2-3, 5-8, 10-14, and 16-20 depend on new claim 21 and should be patentable as well, and all of the claims now in this application should now be allowable.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056208.57745US).

Respectfully submitted,

September 18, 2008


Richard R. Diefendorf
Registration No. 32,890

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
RRD:rd